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693 individually exercise the powers of a magistrate of the first class as provided by the Criminal Courts Ordinance, 1937, and regular sittings are held at Crater, Tawahi and Sheikh Othman.

692 An appeal lies from the Magistrate's Court to the Supreme Court
695 in all criminal cases in which a sentence of imprisonment exceeding one month or fine exceeding Rs. 50 has been passed, and the Supreme Court has also powers of revision.

No sentence of death can be passed on a pregnant woman or a person under the age of 16 years.

A youthful offender may be dealt with by placing him on probation, or by discharging him after due admonition, or by delivering him to his parent, guardian or relative, who has executed a bond for his good behaviour, or by fine, or by whipping, or by ordering his detention.

The Courts performed their usual functions throughout the year. On the criminal side there was an increase of cases both in the Supreme Court and in the Magistrates' Courts. In the Lower Courts there was a very considerable increase in petty offences such as infringements of the Port Rules and minor infringements of the Traffic Ordinance and Rules.

[693] Although there were eight professional pleaders in the Colony, in the great majority of civil cases even in the Supreme Court one or both parties
694 appeared in person without a pleader. This fact and the Indian procedure as followed in the Colony whereby every step in pleadings involves an appearance before the Judge causes a great deal of delay. On the criminal side in the Magistrates' Courts similar delay is caused by the fact that a preliminary enquiry has to be made in every case punishable with imprisonment for a term exceeding six months before the accused can be charged and required to plead. This requirement exists irrespective of the facts of any particular case and even though the case is one that may be tried summarily without recording the evidence.

Owing to the increase of work, Government agreed to the appointment of a second magistrate of the first class on a contractual basis.

691 There is a considerable amount of civil litigation in the Colony. During the year 1947, 304 civil suits were filed in the Supreme Court and 328 civil suits were finally decided. Ten applications for civil revision were filed and decided. Twenty-three civil appeals were lodged in the Supreme Court which disposed of all. The miscellaneous proceedings in the Supreme Court included 30 applications concerning guardianship matters, 10 for succession certificates, 58 for heirship certificates, two for letters of administration, one for probate; and excluding execution proceedings and interlocutory applications, there were 22 other applications, making in all 123. The corresponding disposals were 34, 10, 63, 1, 1, and 23 respectively, making in all 132.

Twenty-six estates were in charge of the Supreme Court.

586 All six cases for dissolution of Mohammedan marriages filed during the year were disposed of.

674 Eleven criminal cases were committed to the Supreme Court during 1947 for trial, out of which nine were disposed of during the year and the remaining two were heard and decided in January, 1948.

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691 the Supreme Court which disposed of 23 such appeals in 1948, three were decided in 1949 and two are still pending. The miscellaneous proceedings in the Supreme Court included 50 applications concerning guardianship matters, 11 applications for succession certificates, 65 applications for heirship certificates, 12 applications for letters of administration, three applications for probate and there were 58 other applications, excluding execution proceedings and interlocutory applications, making in all 199. The corresponding disposals were 46, 11, 63, 12, 3 and 43 respectively, making in all 178.

Eighteen estates were in charge of the Supreme Court.

•586 Twelve cases for dissolution of Mohammedan marriages were filed during the year. Five were decided and seven are still pending.

674 Four criminal cases were committed to the Supreme Court for trial, out of which three were disposed of during the year and the remaining one was heard and decided in January, 1949.

The offences in respect of which persons were tried in the Supreme Court were:

Sessions case No.	*Accused No.*	*Nature of charges*	*Result*
1	1. Gabber Abdulla Al-Buderi. 2. Mohamed Ahmed Al-Haidi. 3. Nasser Attick Abdo Badi.	Murder under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code.	Accused 1 sentenced to 12 months' rigorous imprisonment for voluntarily causing hurt contrary to section 323 of the I.P.C. Accused 2 acquitted. Accused 3 acquitted.
2	Mohamed Gaileh Awad Somali.	Murder under Section 302 of the Indian Penal Code.	Accused sentenced to penal servitude for life for culpable homicide not amounting to murder under Section 304 of the Indian Penal Code.
3	Khaled Salem Mubarak.	Culpable homicide not amounting to murder under Section 304 of the Indian Penal Code.	Nolle prosequi entered. Accused discharged.
4	Mohamed Abdulla Sanani.	Attempt to commit carnal intercourse against the nature of law under Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code.	do.

At the beginning of 1948, 14 criminal appeals were pending and during the year 294 others were filed. Of these, 233 were dismissed, retrial was ordered in two appeals, 43 appeals were allowed and in 30 appeals convictions were sustained but the sentences were altered. No appeal was left pending at the end of the year. The average time taken for the disposal of a criminal appeal is about a fortnight from the filing of the memorandum.